

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A control method in a printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member
5 printers, comprising:

a first activation step of activating a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer, in accordance with designation of the virtual printer
10 corresponding to a first output method; and

a second activation step of activating a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer which becomes representative when a virtual printer corresponding to
15 a second output method is designated.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a designation step of issuing, to the member printer, designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the
20 basis of application data into a predetermined page description language,

wherein the second activation step further provides a user interface containing a setting item for creating the intermediate data upon activation of the
25 second user interface.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the user interface contains an item for setting or changing an

arrangement of the plurality of member printers.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data is contained in the first or second user interface.

5 5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data contains a compression method setting item for the intermediate data.

6. The method according to claim 1, further
10 comprising an adoption step of adopting a different conflict method in accordance with a combination of types of the plurality of member printers,

wherein the first user interface is based on the conflict method adopted in the adoption step.

15 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the types of the plurality of member printers are determined in accordance with whether a function can be controlled.

8. The method according to claim 1, further
20 comprising a change step of changing the representative member printer in the virtual printer corresponding to the second output method,

wherein the second activation step activates the second user interface which reflects a change of the
25 representative member printer in the change step.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein
the second output method includes a redirect

printing output method of printing by redirecting a printer when an error occurs in a printer which has transmitted a print job, and

the first output method includes a distributed
5 printing output method.

10. An information processing apparatus which ²
performs printing control capable of executing a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers, comprising:

10 activation means for activating a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer of a first output method, in accordance with designation of the virtual printer corresponding to the first output method,

15 wherein said activation means activates a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer which becomes representative when a virtual printer corresponding to a second output method is designated.

20 11. A computer-readable medium having a computer-executable program stored thereon for performing ³
printing control capable of executing a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers, the program comprising:

25 code so as to activate a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer of a first output method,

in accordance with designation of the virtual printer
corresponding to the first output method; and

code so as to activate a second user interface
corresponding to a printer driver of a representative
5 member printer which becomes representative when a
virtual printer corresponding to a second output method
is designated.

12. A computer executable program for performing
printing control capable of executing a predetermined
10 output method using a plurality of member printers,
comprising:

code so as to activate a first user interface
based on functions of the plurality of member printers
concerning a virtual printer of a first output method,
15 in accordance with designation of the virtual printer
corresponding to the first output method; and

code so as to activate a second user interface
corresponding to a printer driver of a representative
member printer which becomes representative when a
20 virtual printer corresponding to a second output method
is designated.